



Richland County Council
REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES

April 18, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Council Chambers

2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Overture Walker, Chair; Jessica Mackey, Vice-Chair; Derrek Pugh, Jason Branham, Yvonne McBride, Paul Livingston, Allison Terracio, Don Weaver, Cheryl English, and Chakisse Newton

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Kyle Holsclaw, Judy Carter, Michael Byrd, Angela Weathersby, Dale Welch, Aric Jensen, Patrick Wright, Leonardo Brown, Anette Kirylo, Sandra Haynes, Susan O’Cain, Jeff Ruble, Ashiya Myers, Abhijit Deshpande, Stacey Hamm, Chelsea Bennett, Sarah Harris, Lori Thomas, Todd Money, Michael Maloney, Jennifer Wladischkin, Geo Price, Chris Eversmann, Andrew Haworth, Justin Martin, Dante Roberts, Zachary Cavanaugh, Callison Richardson, Randy Cherry, and John Thompson

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Overture Walker called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.
2. **INVOCATION** – The Honorable Cheryl English led the Invocation.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brigadier General Jason Kelly, Fort Jackson Commanding General.
4. **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS**
 - a. A Proclamation recognizing the retirement of Carol C. Boler [WALKER and LIVINGSTON] – Mr. Walker presented a proclamation recognizing Carol C. Boler’s retirement from the Solicitor’s Office.
 - b. A Proclamation recognizing the retirement of Henrietta C. Joye [WALKER and LIVINGSTON] – Mr. Walker presented a proclamation recognizing Henrietta C. Joye’s retirement from the Solicitor’s Office.
5. **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Ms. Newton moved to adopt the resolutions referenced below, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- a. A Resolution Honoring “Richland County Aviation Week” April 23-29, 2023 – Ms. Terracio presented a resolution honoring “Richland County Aviation Week.”
- b. A Resolution Recognizing April as Fair Housing Month – Ms. Mackey presented a resolution honoring April as Fair Housing Month.
- c. A Resolution Recognizing “EdVenture Children’s Museum” – Ms. Mackey presented a resolution recognizing “EdVenture Children’s Museum.”
- d. A Resolution recognizing “The Month of the Military Child” – Mr. Walker presented a resolution recognizing “The Month of the Military Child.”
- e. A Resolution recognizing Richland Library and declaring April 23-29 as National Library Week – Ms. Newton presented a resolution recognizing Richland Library and declaring April 23-29, 2023, as National Library Week.

Mr. Branham noted that he could not participate in the photo ops because he was suffering from back pain.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Regular Session: April 4, 2023 – Mr. Branham requested the following changes to the minutes:
- On p. 3, the table needs to be modified so that it matches the information included in the presentation on page 14;
 - Also, p. 3 – HM = Over 3 acres and less than 35 acres.

Ms. McBride moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

7. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Wright requested to add “Opioid Litigation Update” under the Report of the Attorney for Executive Session.

Ms. McBride moved to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

8. **REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (Pursuant to SC Code 30-4-70)** – Mr. Patrick Wright, County Attorney, indicated the following items qualify for Executive Session.

- Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center
- Allen University Project Request – 1741 Cushman Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- Opioid Litigation Update

9. **CITIZENS' INPUT**

- For Items on the Agenda Not Requiring a Public Hearing – No one signed up to speak.

10. **CITIZENS' INPUT**

- Must Pertain to Richland County Matters Not on the Agenda (Items for which a public hearing is required or a public hearing has been scheduled cannot be addressed at this time.)
 - Lee Lumpkin, 21 Heathwood Circle, Columbia, SC 29205 – Columbia Classical Ballet
 - Richard Evans, 3108 Padgett Road, Hopkins, SC 29061 – Eastover Recycling Center

11. **REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

- Items for Consideration:
 - Fair Housing Month – Mr. Leonardo Brown, County Administrator, noted Fair Housing Month was acknowledged earlier in the meeting.
 - Land Development Code Community Meetings – Mr. Brown noted the Land Development Code Community meetings have been held. The process is still ongoing.
 - Ag + Art Tour – Mr. Brown stated the Ag + Art Tour is a tourism opportunity for individuals to participate in and tour and support our County.
 - Communications
 - Fireworks Ordinance Communication Plan
 - Residential Rental Property Registration & Regulations Ordinance Communication Plan
 - Redistricting Communication Plan

Mr. Brown stated the communication plans are designed to allow Council to look at mechanisms we plan to use to address these particular items. The design is for Council to be able to provide feedback. For example, some constituents may not watch TV or use social media or the Internet. Therefore, we could need another mechanism to reach them (i.e., community meetings).

Mr. Pugh thanked the Administrator for this information. He thinks it is essential that we disseminate the information in a way so individuals know who their representatives are and any recent ordinance changes.

Ms. Newton requested that we include the Land Development Code in upcoming communication plans. In addition, she requested FAQs for the Land Development Code.

b. Administrator's Nominations:

1. Solicitor's Office – Case Management System – Mr. Brown stated that the committee and Council had vetted and approved this project. ARPA dollars funded the project. Due to the time sensitivity of the implementation, the Solicitor is requesting to bypass the committee process and have Council approve the contract. Mr. Wright noted his office had reviewed the contract.

Ms. Terracio moved to approve the execution of the contract, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Mr. Weaver inquired if we are approving the procuring of the contract.

Mr. Brown responded you would be approving the execution of the contract.

Mr. Weaver inquired if Council had previously approved the contract.

Mr. Brown replied Council approved the funding and the project, and the contract would be approved tonight.

For clarification, Mr. Weaver stated that the funds are coming from the ARPA funds.

Mr. Brown responded the project is partially funded by ARPA and partially by another source.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Ms. English.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

2. Community Planning & Development – Community Development Division – Grant Single Audit Service – Mr. Brown stated the item before Council is a request to allow us to extend a task order to use Moss Adams to complete a portion of this process. He noted these particular programs are designed so we can ensure compliance with HUD. These audits are highly specialized and are an inherent part of administering federal grants in excess of \$750,000. Moss Adams will assist the County with meeting requisite timeliness and accuracy requirements for the HUD CDBG Disaster Recovery Mitigation, Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and Public Assistance Programs. The details are covered in the briefing document.

Mr. Livingston inquired if we are expanding the current contract.

Mr. Brown responded in the affirmative. We are adding a task order to the already-procured process.

Mr. Weaver inquired how the audit would be funded.

Mr. Brown replied these funds are associated with funding already in the program.

Ms. English moved to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Recuse: Branham (due to his daughter working for Moss Adams during the summer.)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English moved to reconsider the item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Opposed: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Recuse: Branham (due to his daughter working for Moss Adams during the summer.)

The motion for reconsideration failed.

3. Housing Court & NCSC Eviction Diversion Initiative Grant – This item was not taken up.
4. Detention Center Plan – Mr. Brown noted, on behalf of County Council, he submitted to the Department of Corrections a response to a letter received. It was timely submitted. He also submitted a supplemental response to additional questions raised. Tomorrow he will hold a news conference in the 4th Floor Conference Room at 9:30 AM. Releasable information will be made available to the public.

12. **REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL**

- a. Budget Work Session – Ms. Anette Kirylo, Clerk to Council, reminded Councilmembers of the upcoming budget work session on Thursday, April 20th, at 3:00 PM.

13. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR** – No report was given.

14. **OPEN/CLOSE PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a. Authorizing the expansion of the boundaries of the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park jointly developed with Fairfield County to include certain property located in Richland County; the execution and delivery of a public infrastructure credit agreement to provide for public infrastructure credit to Verve Columbia Blossom, LLC a company previously identified as Project Subtext; and other related matters – No one signed up to speak.
- b. Authorizing the expansion of the boundaries of the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park jointly developed with Fairfield County to include certain property located in Richland County; the execution and delivery of a public infrastructure credit agreement to provide for public infrastructure credits to Siguno RC, LLC a company previously identified as Project Siguno; and other related matters – No one signed up to speak.
- c. Authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes and incentive agreement between Richland County, South Carolina and FN America, LLC, a project previously identified as Project Charlie Echo, to provide for payment of a fee-in-lieu of taxes; authorizing certain special source credits; and other related matters
 - 1. Regina Williams, 3517 & 3529 White Street, Columbia, SC 29203
 - 2. Mark Talbert, 3608 Baywater Drive, Columbia, SC 29209
 - 3. James Starnes, 1001 Denton Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- d. Authorizing the transfer of a certain real property owned by Richland County and located in the Northpoint Industrial Park to Osmium Development Group, a company previously identified as Project Osmium; and other matters related thereto – No one signed up to speak.

15. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Case # 22-040MA, Mark Meadows, RU to GC (1.00 Acres), 311 Killian Road, TMS # R14781-04-10 [THIRD READING]
- b. Case # 23-001MA, Heather Bounds, M-1 to RS-HD (77.78 Acres), N/S Hard Scrabble Road, TMS # R17301-02-01 [THIRD READING]
- c. Case # 23-002MA, James Stembridge, PDD to RS-LD (4.01 Acres), 110 Jacobs Mill Pond Road, TMS # R25810-03-08 [THIRD READING]
- d. Case # 23-003MA, Wesley Slice, RU to GC (4 Acres), 1000 W Shady Grove Road, TMS # R02600-06-16 [THIRD READING]
- e. Case # 23-004MA, Carlos Hart, RS-MD to GC (0.31 Acres), 7011 Frost Ave, TMS # R07614-01-10 [THIRD READING]
- f. Case # 23-006MA, Ross P. McClary, PDD to RU (3.00 Acres), 11447 & 11451 Garners Ferry Rd, TMS # R35200-09-10 & 38 [THIRD READING]

Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 15(a)-15(f), seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

16. **THIRD READING ITEM**

- a. Authorizing the expansion of the boundaries of the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park jointly developed with Fairfield County to include certain property located in Richland County; the execution and delivery of a public infrastructure credit agreement to provide for public infrastructure credits to Verve Columbia Blossom, LLC a company previously identified as Project Subtext; and other related matters – Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, English, and Newton

Opposed: Terracio

Recuse: Mackey (due to her parent company representing the company)

The vote was in favor.

- b. Authorizing the expansion of the boundaries of the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park jointly developed with Fairfield County to include certain property located in Richland County; the execution and delivery of a public infrastructure credit agreement to provide for public infrastructure credit to Siguno RC, LLC a company previously identified as Project Siguno; and other related matters – Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, English, and Newton
Recuse: Mackey (due to her parent company representing the company)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, English, and Newton

Recuse: Mackey (due to her parent company representing the company)

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- c. Authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes and incentive agreement between Richland County, South Carolina and FN America, LLC, a project previously identified as Project Charlie Echo, to provide for payment of a fee-in-lieu of taxes; authorizing certain special source credits; and other related matters ***{This item was reconsidered at the May 2, 2023 Council meeting}*** – Mr. Weaver moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. McBride stated her vote against this item is not about whether you can purchase a gun. Her vote was not about the Second Amendment. She is voting against this item because she thinks using taxpayer dollars to incentivize a company selling guns commercially is wrong. This is not the first time the County has incentivized this company. She inquired when does taxpayer money stop going to big corporate companies. She noted it is sometimes necessary to incentivize corporate companies, but in this case, when do we say “no”? The company is bringing 100 new jobs, but thousands of lives are being lost. She reported there were over 35 guns in schools in less than six months. Moreover, we do not know who these new jobs are going to.

Ms. Terracio stated we are regularly horrified by mass shootings and shootings in our local communities. She noted these are exacerbated by some of the loose laws being pushed by the gun lobby at the State House. Those same lobbyists work at the Federal level to prevent any commonsense gun regulation that the vast majority of the American public support. Putting more dollars in the hands of these gun manufacturers is not something she will be able to support now or ever.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, and Walker

Opposed: Pugh, McBride, Terracio, English, and Newton

Recuse: Mackey (due to her parent company representing the company)

The motion for approval failed.

- d. Authorizing the transfer of certain real property owned by Richland County and located in the Northpoint Industrial Park to Osmium Development Group, a company previously identified as Project Osmium; and other matters related thereto – Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston moved to reconsider Items 16(a) and 16(d), seconded by Ms. Barron.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, English, and Newton

Recuse: Mackey (due to her parent company representing Item 16(a)’s company)

The motion for reconsideration failed.

17. **SECOND READING ITEMS**

- a. Authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes and incentive agreement by and between Richland County, South Carolina and Project Armitage to provide for payment of a fee-in-lieu of taxes; authorizing certain infrastructure credits; and other related matters – Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

18. **REPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

- a. Authorizing the expansion of the boundaries of the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park jointly developed with Fairfield County to include certain property located in Richland County; the execution and delivery of a public infrastructure credit agreement to provide for public infrastructure credits to Project Urban Renewal; and other related matters – Mr. Livingston stated the committee recommended approval of this item.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

19. **REPORT OF THE RULES AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

a. **NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS**

1. Board of Zoning Appeals – Four (4) Vacancies – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended re-advertising these vacancies.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

2. Township Auditorium – One (1) Vacancy – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended re-appointing Mr. Carlos Gibbons, Jr.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

b. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

1. Prior to the Rules and Appointments Committee interviewing applicants to serve on existing vacancies Councilmembers serving as a liaison on a Board, Commission, or Committee should provide the Rules and Appointments Committee with an update on current needs that particular board is trying to fill including but not limited to qualifications and expectations. The Councilmember should make an effort to attend those interviews. (January 3, 2023) – Ms. Barron stated the committee forwarded this item to Council without a recommendation.

Mr. Walker inquired if this was an item for action or discussion.

Ms. Barron responded it is an item for discussion unless Council wishes to take action.

Ms. Terracio stated she realizes the importance of having a handle on the board you serve on and the board's needs. She suggested having the Executive Director or Board Chair work with the Council liaison and staff to communicate what the board, commission, or committee seeks.

Mr. Pugh stated he thinks this is a wonderful idea. He indicated Councilmembers should assist the Rules and Appointments Committee to carry the ball. He believes it is crucial whenever we have hot topics in any committee a Councilmember feels strongly about, they should take it upon themselves to attend those specific committees to voice their opinions.

Ms. McBride stated there are two parts to this motion. One part would be to invite Council to the meetings to discuss the needs of the committee they serve.

Ms. Barron responded the intent is that we get input from the Councilmembers. Whether you choose to attend the meeting or send an email. We want your input as the liaison.

Ms. McBride stated she had concerns about putting certain things in policy, and this is one of them. This is an issue that has come up several times. She has no problem with Councilmembers being encouraged to provide information to the committee, but she has an issue with it being mandated. Secondly, we sometimes have unintended negative consequences based on rules we make when we limit the qualifications and expectations of the citizens we recommend serving on these committees. She noted we could get into an exclusionary situation. Many of the members serving on the committees may not have had the expertise in the area, but they were interested, which is why they are serving. If an area of expertise is needed, the boards, commissions, and committees have staff. The citizens bring their commitment and interest. She is reluctant to have anyone tell Councilmembers the qualifications that are needed. If it was stated there were specific qualifications to serve on County Council, some of them might not be on Council.

Ms. Barron indicated qualifications and skill sets have already been set. Some of them have been developed by ordinance or State law. Last year the Rules Committee spent a reasonable amount of time going over the overview of each board, commission, and committee, and full Council voted on them. The intent of this discussion is to determine what specific needs the Rules Committee should look for when interviewing applicants, not to put the citizens in a box by saying we only want this type of person. This could merely be a good practice.

Ms. McBride stated she is well-versed on the qualifications and expectations. On some committees, you have specific qualifications, but not on all of them. In this particular case, she was referring to the ones that did not have qualifications.

Ms. Newton stated that when we have helpful knowledge and information, she believes it is great for us to share not just about candidates but the context of what the organization is going through. She does think it would be wonderful for our organizations to be more involved in the process and reach out to us about things they are trying to achieve. She feels it would be helpful to the committee, which has limited time to spend with the applicants.

Ms. English stated she encourages the Directors of the boards she serves on to reach out.

Mr. Walker noted if you are a Councilmember who serves as a liaison to a specific board, commission, or committee, the Rules and Appointments Committee is requesting that you give some input to the current needs of that particular entity so the committee can make an informed decision and recommendation to the body.

No action was taken on this item.

2. Eliminate the requirement for applicants who are applying to serve on Boards, Committees, or Commissions to disclose their age range and sex during the application process. Appointments are done based on skills and knowledge. (January 3, 2023) – Ms. Barron stated this item had been before the committee before and did not move forward.

Mr. Wright stated, from a legal standpoint, these are identifiers. Your age, sex, etc., is not used to make the appointment. There is no legal problem with requesting someone to disclose these identifiers on an application.

Ms. Newton stated that Richland County interviews every applicant who applies, so no determination is made before we meet the applicants. In addition, any applicant that is not selected has the opportunity to leave their application on file for a year. She noted she is not in favor of this motion. Generally speaking, more data is helpful.

Mr. Weaver stated he believes age and gender need to be a part of the application.

Ms. McBride stated her overall concern was that we do not make policy out of everything.

No action was taken on this item.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Ms. Barron stated when she came on Council, there were hundreds of applicants awaiting interviews. As of today, all of those applicants have been interviewed and have filled the vast majority of the vacancies. There is currently an advertisement out that will close on April 21st. She applauded the Clerk’s Office and past Rules and Appointment Committee members for their hard work.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Mr. Livingston thanked the Rules and Appointments Committee for their hard work and tenacity.

20. **REPORT OF THE CORONAVIRUS AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- a. American Rescue Plan Act Fund Grant Application and Process – Ms. Barron noted the approval of these items is contingent upon a desk review and ensuring expenditures qualify and are allowable.

1. Broadband Services – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended approving up to \$297,746.13 – Columbia International University: Broadband Expansion for 4th District of Richland County, and up to \$207,700.00 – Richland County Public Library – Hotspot: Bridging the Digital Divide.

Ms. Terracio requested to divide the question.

a. Columbia International Festival

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

b. Richland County Public Library

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

2. Affordable Housing – Ms. Barron noted there was much discussion around this topic at the work session and in the committee meeting. She noted that Council feels very passionate about this matter, so much so that we allocated \$4M toward this category. The applications received were not necessarily aligned with the vision. The committee

recommended directing the Administrator to propose a plan to invest \$4M in affordable housing, specifically to add new affordable units to the market.

Ms. Mackey inquired if there was a specific timeline for the proposed plan to be returned to Council.

Ms. Barron responded we did not set a deadline. She requested the Administrator to propose a timeline for bringing forth the proposed plan.

Mr. Brown stated he could have the information back to Council by the May 16th Council meeting.

Mr. Weaver inquired if we are discussing assistance or constructing new affordable units.

Mr. Brown replied there was a conversation about new construction, but there was also a discussion about vacant units that could be remodeled to add new affordable housing unit availability.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. *Youth and Recreation Services* – Ms. Barron stated the committee felt like some of the applications we received were not necessarily aligned with the original intent. Committee members were to submit questions to staff for submission to the applicants to gain a better understanding. In addition, the committee requested staff have the applicants submit an abstract.
4. *Senior Assistance* – Ms. Barron stated this item was tabled due to the committee not having a quorum.
5. *Non-Profits* – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended approving up to \$138,091.20 – The Cooperative Ministry, up to \$131,991.00 – Epworth Children’s Home, and up to \$130,000.00 – Midlands Mediation Center. She noted questions by the committee regarding the Columbia City Ballet were to be sent to Assistant County Administrator Lori Thomas by April 12th.

For the record, the additional categories will be taken up at a subsequent Coronavirus Ad Hoc Committee.

Ms. McBride thanked the committee for the work they have done thus far. She indicated it was no secret that she had significant concerns with the overall ARPA grant process. She believes efforts are being made to correct some of those issues.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Mr. Pugh congratulated the Coronavirus Ad Hoc Committee. He noted they have done a wonderful job of ensuring we get everything we need. In addition, he is excited that barriers in Chambers have been removed.

21. **OTHER ITEMS**

- a. FY23 – District 7 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Black Pages International - \$5,000; Historic Columbia - \$10,000; and Columbia International University - \$5,000
- b. FY23 – District 2 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Black Pages International - \$5,000
- c. FY23 – District 10 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Lower Richland Sweet Potato Fest - \$1,500; Kingville Historical Foundation - \$20,000; and EdVenture - \$5,000

Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 21(a)-21(c), seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Newton moved to reconsider Items 21(a)-21(c), seconded by Ms. Barron.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

21. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Ms. Terracio moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton
The vote in favor was unanimous.

***Council went into Executive Session at approximately 8:06 PM
and came out at approximately 8:50 PM***

**Regular Session
April 18, 2023**

Ms. Barron moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Walker indicated no action was taken in Executive Session. In addition, he requested the record to reflect that Mr. Pugh recused himself from Executive Session regarding the Allen University Property request.

- a. Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center – No action was taken.
- b. Allen University Property Request -1741 Cushman Drive, Columbia, SC 29203 – Ms. McBride moved to authorize the County Administrator and County Attorney to accept the most recent monetary offer from Allen University to purchase the property at 1741 Cushman Drive, as is, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Recuse: Pugh

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- c. Opioid Litigation Update – No action was taken.

22. **MOTION PERIOD**

- a. I move to direct the County Administrator to add Paid Parental Leave as a benefit available to all full-time Richland County employees and to update the Employee Handbook with a policy that reflects a minimum of six weeks of available paid Parental Leave. The goal for implementation date of this new benefit is January 1, 2024. [MACKEY] – Ms. Mackey stated this motion aligns with the County's current Strategic Plan Objective 6.2 – "Encouraging Investments in Employee and County Development." Last year, Council voted to add Juneteenth as a paid employee holiday. She noted we continue to look for ways to add additional benefits to support Richland County employees to retain and recruit employees.

Ms. Mackey requested unanimous consent to take action on her motion, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey moved to add "Paid Parental Leave" as a benefit for all full-time Richland County employees, seconded by Ms. McBride.

Ms. Newton stated, for clarification, the next step would be for the Administrator to prepare a plan and bring it back to Council for approval.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey thanked her colleagues for their support of her motion.

23. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. English moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:56 PM.



Richland County Council

STATEMENT OF RECUSAL

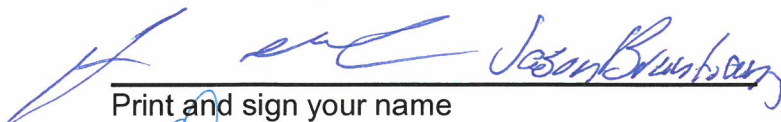
In accordance with Section 8-13-700(B) [provides in part that no public official, public member or public employee may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use their official office, membership or employment to influence a governmental decision in which they, a member of their immediate family, an individual with whom they are associated, or a business with which they are associated has an economic interest.], I hereby recuse myself from all votes, deliberations and other action on the following matter(s):

(Please add agenda Item number and description):

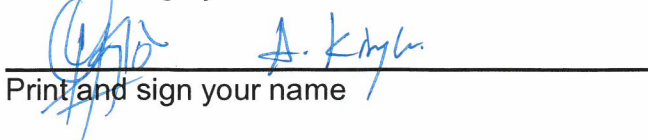
11(b)(2) Community planning and development grant Singh
service needs

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION:

My daughter accepted an offer to intern for
the accounting firm proposed to be retained for
services


Print and sign your name

4/18/23
Date


Print and sign your name

4/18/23
Date received by Clerk Dept.



Richland County Council

STATEMENT OF RECUSAL

In accordance with Section 8-13-700(B) [*provides in part that no public official, public member or public employee may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use their official office, membership or employment to influence a governmental decision in which they, a member of their immediate family, an individual with whom they are associated, or a business with which they are associated has an economic interest.*], I hereby recuse myself from all votes, deliberations and other action on the following matter(s):

(Please add agenda Item number and description): Executive Session
Report of the County Attorney - Allen University Request
Item # 18a

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION:

Darrek Pugh / Darrin Pugh

Print and sign your name

Print and sign your name

3/21/23
Date

3/21/23
Date received by Clerk Dept.



Richland County Council

STATEMENT OF RECUSAL

In accordance with Section 8-13-700(B) [*provides in part that no public official, public member or public employee may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use their official office, membership or employment to influence a governmental decision in which they, a member of their immediate family, an individual with whom they are associated, or a business with which they are associated has an economic interest.*], I hereby recuse myself from all votes, deliberations and other action on the following matter(s):

(Please add agenda Item number and description): Report of County Attorney
Executive Session item # 8 b. Allen University Request
1741 Cushman Drive.

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION:

Darrick Pugh/Darrick Pugh

Print and sign your name

A. King
Print and sign your name

4/18/23

Date

4/18/23

Date received by Clerk Dept.



Richland County Council

STATEMENT OF RECUSAL

In accordance with Section 8-13-700(B) [provides in part that no public official, public member or public employee may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use their official office, membership or employment to influence a governmental decision in which they, a member of their immediate family, an individual with whom they are associated, or a business with which they are associated has an economic interest.], I hereby recuse myself from all votes, deliberations and other action on the following matter(s):

(Please add agenda Item number and description):

16a - 3rd Reading Verve Columbia Blossom/Project Subtext
16b - 3rd Reading Siguno RC, LLC / Project Siguno
16c - 3rd Reading FN America, LLC / Project Charlie Echo

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION:

My parent company represents the business listed.

Jessica Mackay/Jessica Mackay

Print and sign your name

A. King
Print and sign your name

4-18-2023

Date

4/18/23

Date received by Clerk Dept.